

## REMARKS

The Office Action, dated September 15, 2005, objected to claim 8, rejected claims 1-6, 9, 10, and 12-19, and allowed claim 7. Claim 11 is withdrawn from consideration.

In this response, applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 18. Claim 8 is amended to add a period at the end, and claim 10 is amended to delete "the" to correct the lack of antecedent basis. Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 12, 14, 16, and 18 are amended to further clarify the invention as set forth in the chart below. Thus, the claims now more affirmatively recite "introducing" microbes, indicate that biodegradation is independent of pH adjustment, and recite the coagulation of water glass. These amendments do not narrow the scope of the claim. Moreover, the amendments are fully supported by the specification and the originally filed claims, as summarized in the table below. Thus, no new matter is added by all of these amendments.

Claim	Phrase	Examples of Support in the Specification/Original Claims
1, 12, 14, 16, 18	introducing alkalophilic/alkaline-tolerant microbes to	Page 5, lines 22-24
1, 12, 14, 16, 18	biodegrade said wastewater without any prior pH adjustment of said wastewater	Original claim 1
4, 5, 9, 12, 16	to coagulate the water glass	Page 5, lines 28-29
12	removing coagulated water glass from water	Original claim 16
14	to separate water glass from water	Original claim 14

**I. Objections to Claim 8**

In view of the objection to claim 8 for want of a period at the end of the claim, Office Action at page 3, claim 8 has been so amended.

**II. Rejection of Claims 1-6, 9, 10, 12-19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9, 10, 12-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner stated that "It is unclear whether the prior pH adjustment step is ... made by alkalophilic/alkaline-tolerant microbes, or whether the biodegrading step is made by said microbes." Office Action at page 2. The Examiner further stated that amending claim 1 so that the phrase "by alkalophilic/alkaline-tolerant microbes" immediately follow the word "wastewater" and so that "of said wastewater" follows the word "adjustment", would overcome this rejection. Office Action at page 2. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's suggestion and have amended claims 1, 12, 14, 16, and 18 to recite "... introducing alkalophilic/alkaline-tolerant microbes to biodegrade said wastewater without any prior pH adjustment of said wastewater." The remaining rejected claims 2-6, 13, 15, 17, and 19 are dependent on claims 1, 12, 14, 16, and 18 respectively, and accordingly, these amendments address these rejections.

The Examiner also rejected claim 9 for lack of antecedent basis for "the" coagulated water glass". Office Action at page 2. Applicants have amended claim 9 by introducing the step of coagulation.

The Examiner also rejected claim 10 for lack of antecedent basis for "the" biotreated water". Office Action at page 2. Applicants have amended claim 10 by deleting the word "the".

The Examiner further rejected claim 16 as the claim ends with "; and" rather than with a period ("."). Office Action at page 2. Applicants have amended claim 16 so that it ends with a period.

In view of the foregoing amendments, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-6, 9, 10, 12-19 under Section 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, are respectfully requested.

The Examiner noted that claim 7 was allowed.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner does not consider the application to be allowable, the undersigned requests that, prior to taking action, the Examiner contact her or her supervising attorney Jean Fordis at (650) 849-6607 to set up an interview.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 12, 2005

By: Anna Y. Tsang  
Anna Y. Tsang      by Jean D. Fordis  
Reg. No. 48,003      Reg. No. 32,984